TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2001

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Field Day is just around the corner. Preparation is being made for the event to be held on June 23. Just like last year and the years before, the ladies in the club are talking about what kind of food to serve. Those who attended the past years "Field Day Dinner" will remember the delicious food. If you are like me, you will be looking forward to the occasion. Please contact Pat KF4LTY and/or Sherry KU4ZO and get involved with the planning of the club dinner.

If approved by the city, and I don't foresee any problem, we will be setting up at the same location as last year. The site is known as "Area 3 Well Field Raw Water Transfer Station". The location is approximately ¾ mile South of SR 50 and about 200 yards East off Barna Ave.

Field Day operations will also be held in the North End of the county near Hog Valley at the future site of the 146.775 repeater. For those who have never visited KD4HNW Ken's place you must go out and admire all the work done by Ken, Archie WN3DHI and others in getting ready to put the new repeater on the air. By the way while you are out there have Ken show you his lake. He has a rope tied in a tree that you can swing out and splash into the beautiful water. Boy, does that bring back childhood memories!

This is the time of year when many of our friends will be saying goodbye and heading back up to their homes up North. We will miss you and wish the very best to you and yours.

By the way, for new entries to amateur radio - thanks to the electronic processing of new applicants - their call signs are appearing on the FCC data base in only 1,2, or at the latest 3 days after passing their exams. I know all of you remember how long it took to get your call sign after you took and passed your exams.

Hope to see you at the next club meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 PM at the Jaycee building.

NOTICE
TO ALL ARRL MEMBERS

ARRL dues increase July 1. The fees are increasing to $39.00 regular and $34.00 senior. You can renew before this date for any number of years and "save a buck or two". TARC gets $2.00 for each renewal and $5.00 for a new member.

Clyde K4EOS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APR. 3 AA4FY NORM FOSTER
APR. 4 KC4VMP JIM CLARK
APR. 6 KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
APR. 7 KD4PUT FLORENCE WILSON
APR 8 KF4FEY PENNY MANION
APR. 8 K4ATD ANGIE DIMEO
APR. 10 KC4VWA ETHEL GRINER
APR. 10 KF4UN DAVE POST
APR. 13 KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
APR. 13 KF4LUA GWEN COLVIN
APR. 23 W4BME JOHN LINK
APR. 30 KB4RBU VERN BAUER

FOR SALE

40' ROHN TOWER
W/ROTOR & COAX CABLE
TRIBANDER
10-15-20 MOSLEY JR
ASKING PRICE
$200 O.B.O.
CALL LOWELL HALBERT
904-763-1534

From the Internet
Submitted by Malcom Harper K5UNT

Smart man + smart woman = romance
Dumb man + dumb woman = pregnancy
Smart man + dumb woman = affair
Dumb man + smart woman = marriage
Smart boss + smart employee = profits
Smart boss + dumb employee = production
Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion
Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime

Ed. comment: There was some more pretty funny (and unfortunately true) stuff from K5UNT, but it was all wife bashing. I don't dare print it. I'm afraid our female members will stop reading the newsletter. However, if a ham/wife sends me some good husband bashing stuff, I'll print both.

Also from the Internet
Submitted by Ozzie N4SCY

One of the great joys of being a lawyer is, occasionally, running across a case that is a gem. As, for example, the case of Searight v. New Jersey. 412 F.Supp. 413 (D.N.J. 1976) where the late U. S. District Judge Vincent Diunno dismissed a pro se claim by a man who alleged that "the State of New Jersey unlawfully injected him in the left eye with a radium electric beam. As a result, he claims that someone now talks to him on the inside of his brain."

Though he did not award money damages, the Judge advised the complainant, and I quote: "taking the facts as pleaded, and assuming them to be true, they show a case of presumably unlicensed radio communication, a matter which comes within the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 U.S.C. 151, et seq. And even aside from that, Searight could have blocked the broadcast to the antenna in his brain simply by grounding it....just as delivery

trucks for oil and gasoline are "grounded" against the accumulation of charges of static electricity, so on the same principle Searight might have pinned to the back of a trouser leg a short chain of paper clips so that the end would touch the ground and prevent anyone from talking to him inside his brain."

Only in America again, from the Internet

Only in America…

can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
are there handicapped parking places in front of a skating rink.
do people order double cheese burgers, a large fry, and a diet coke.
do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and leave useless things and junk in the garage.
do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
do we use the word "politics" to describe the process so well: "Poli" in Latin meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "blood-sucking creatures.'

WATCH THOSE E-MAIL LINKS

From 4/01 QSL *Correspondence*

I enjoyed Don's, WB8HQS, article "Does Your Club Need a Web Site" in the January 2001 QST. It had excellent advice, which altogether too few site authors follow these days. Flashing animations and background audio tend to drive me away from a site.

There is one item I would be wary of, however: "Make extensive use of 'mail-to' links…" These do make it easy for visitors to contact club officers. Unfortunately, they also make it easy for spammers (junk e-mailers) to contact them.

Spammers use programs that scan the Web looking for e-mail addresses on pages. Each address they find is saved to a database, and eventually sold to other spammers. Post your club officers' e-mail addresses on a Web page, and they can count on receiving dozens of junk messages on a regular basis. Use mail-to links at your own risk. *Doug Smith, W9WI, Pleasant View, TN*

FROM VARIOUS W5YI REPORTS

Cell phones affecting social behavior. Why would novelty stores sell fake cellular telephones? And why would people buy them? One reason may be that many people perceive a cell phone as a status symbol. Psychologists have noted an increase in the number of men taking fake cell phones into bars and restaurants. Fake devices are cheaper than the real thing, and just placing them on the table or pretending to use them calls attention to the fact that "Hey, I've got a cell phone."

If you have a computer and are paying ANYTHING for long distance telephone calls, you are paying too much! As compression techniques improve so will the clarity and quality of Voice-on-the-Net (VON) phoning. At present, some Internet calls are best described as being "Cellular-quality." Passable, but then they are totally free. As a general rule, the faster the connection, the better the quality. While you need a PC to make the calls, the person on the other end needs only a traditional telephone set.

We understand that the **City of Los Angeles is in the early stages of considering taxing cable Internet service.** The *Los Angeles Cable Internet*

Tax could end up costing customers an additional $4.00 per month or more!

Hello, this is your washing machine calling! An Italian white goods manufacturer, Merloni Elettrodomistici has developed a washing machine with an internal cellphone that communicates with the company. This Internet-connected washing machine can be controlled with a mobile phone or via the Internet by accessing the device's own Web page.

It scans the washing instructions of clothes and automatically connects to the Internet to find out the right soap to use and the correct temperature for the water. It also can download upgraded software from the world wide web. You can even call your washing machine to find out what it is doing (it sends back a text message) or to give it special instructions.

It employs the new WRAP (Web Ready Appliance Protocol) that networks domestic appliances to allow information to flow from one digital domestic appliance to another, and in turn from the appliances to the outside world.

The new generation of "Wrap inside" household appliances are able to communicate through the electricity network with power line modems that require no additional wiring. For more information check out: www.margherita2000.com>

In 1985, two years after wireless telephone technology emerged on the market, only 350,000 people in the United States owned wireless telephones. **A whopping 100 million Americans now use mobile phones, and thirty thousand new customers wire up every day!** According to Newsweek, "There will be as many as 1.6 billion cell phone users worldwide by 2005."
That may be a low figure.

Given a choice, which would you rather be without: your television or your computer? A recent survey revealed that over half of online users would rather part with their TV set than their computer. If you think about it, TV is pretty much a one-way communications medium with limited control. The Internet lets you share pictures, music, messages and information with almost anyone at the push of a button. And most TV news departments have the news on-line at their own web sites, anyway.

The March 1 *Wall Street Journal's* "Personal Technology" column confirmed what we told you several issues ago. **Google <www.google.com> is the best search engine.** I agree with author Walter Mossberg, when he says it is "....thorough, smart, speedy and honest." He called Google "....a beacon in a sea of confusion."

It has a propriety page-ranking system that puts what you need higher in the listings than other search sites do. Google claims more than 600 million fully indexed pages and another 600 million partially indexed. And unbelievably, it can search them all in a quarter of a second! No other search engine comes close!

But what Mossberg did not mention was their excellent (and free) customizable toolbar which you can easily install on your Microsoft Internet Explorer browser (version 5.0 or higher.) You can make it disappear/reappear by going to View-- > Toolbars and then unchecking/checking the Google option. (And totally uninstalling can be easily and quickly accomplished by clicking a line on a pull down menu.)

There are all sorts of features that you can program into the toolbar including doing site (rather than web) searches, finding words on a page, automatic highlighting of words, and finding the single site that Google thinks you want...and more!

There is also "PageRank," Google's patent-pending technology that rates (using a bar graph) the importance of a given web page to your search words. Get the toolbar at:
<http://toolbar.google.com>

A story in the March 8th Washington Times newspaper reports that ex-FBI agent and accused spy Robert P. Hanssen K9QVL mentions his involvement with radio technology. Hanssen, a 25 year FBI veteran, was arrested Feb. 18 after he supposedly left secret documents for Russian contacts at a park near his house. The government charges that he has been spying for Moscow since 1985. A search of Hanssen's car contained a hand-written page of "numerous apparent radio frequencies," which U. S. officials suspect were FBI radio frequencies used by surveillance personnel.

"Knowing the FBI's radio communication channels would greatly assist Russian spies and intelligence officers in avoiding detection.. The FBI also seized a radio scanner from the car."

Another court document left for the Russians and later recovered from a package said that Hanssen"...believed he was under surveillance and had detected radio signals from his car." Hanssen's note said the FBI had installed a tracking device in his car.

"The electronic device uses Global Positioning System satellites to monitor spies' movements to the FBI."

Furthermore, the FBI believes "...Hanssen either gave one of the devices to the Russians or revealed its technology." If convicted, he could face execution.

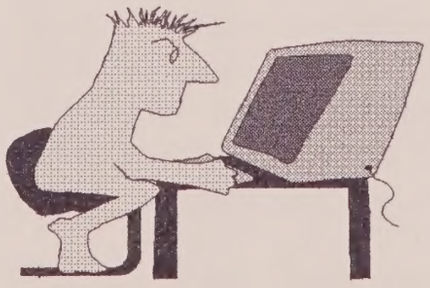
Progress is being made at stabilizing the Phase 3D Amateur satellite. The AO-40 team has been able to decrease the hamsat's initial spin rate. The objective is to slow it in the area of 5 RPM. As soon as the spin is favorable, AO-40's attitude will be adjusted to improve communication with Earth. De-spinning the spacecraft is a necessary first step to making any attitude adjustments.

The FCC has circulated the following bulletin to the Amateur Radio Media: "We've had a rash of interference problems created by oscillating preamplifiers which are built into Winegard TV reception antennas, used primarily on RV's, campers, and motor homes. The oscillations generally appear in the 400-500 MHz range, and have caused interference problems to Public Safety, amateur, etc., at distances of several miles.

"Wingard recognizes the problem, and estimates that there may be as many as 40,000 defective units out there!

"They have agreed to replace any defective units at no charge. All the user needs to do is contact the factory at Burlington, Iowa, at (319) 754-0600. This includes RV owners, as well as RV dealers and repair shops which may have new, but defective units still in stock.

"Winegard also proposes a pro-active program in which service technicians will visit the larger campgrounds, rallies and dealers around the country, actively looking for defective/radiating units in operation or on the dealer's shelves, and replacing them, again at no charge to the customer, regardless of the age of the unit.



ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

WOW! WHAT A BOAT RIDE!

When traveling between Titusville and Orlando on highway SR-50 across the St. Johns River, do you ever wonder what it is like up or down the river away from the highway? Did you ever want to get away from it all without much expense or effort and without having to go very far? Did you ever want to commune with nature but never seem to have the time or know where to go: If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, you must take an air boat ride on the St. Johns river. Clara and I answered yes to all three.

We joined a group of seven people who took the ride with "Cracker Personalized Air Boat Tours", Capt. Lonnie at the helm. Lonnie was born and raised on or near the river. Therefore he is not only an excellent air boat skipper, he is a very knowledgeable and interesting tour guide. He told some very interesting stories along the way.

From SR-50 we went up stream (South) five miles or so 'as the crow flies' or about 20 miles as the channel flows. In only that short distance it is like another world. Of course, he stopped several times along the way, pointing out things of interest. (There is no talking while the boat is in motion. Because of the engine noise, everyone wears ear covers.)

It is absolutely amazing how quickly the scene changes from the real world to pure nature. The only domestic animals seen were cows. Lots of cows were grazing and basking along the river banks. The area is mostly grasslands, but, as if to break the monotony, we observed several beautiful cypress tree groves.

Wild animals were everywhere. We saw a half dozen or so bald eagles perched in trees along the way. They didn't seem to mind the air boat passing by. And turtles, lots of turtles. Not to mention hundreds of birds of all kinds including Great Blue herons. The wild animals and fowls seemed to coexist very well. We saw one Great Blue heron wading in shallow water no more than four feet from a large alligator. Apparently they were simply ignoring each other. (Of course we don't know what happened after we passed on by...*Grin*).

There were countless alligators all along the way. In one group alone there must have been 15 or more, all different sizes. I couldn't get an accurate count because they were diving into the river at the boat approached. Anyway, I was too busy enjoying the outdoors to count them, but one member of our party counted between 85 and 90 alligators during the whole trip.

One normally thinks of alligators as ugly, vicious creatures. As we observed, in the wilderness they are magnificent surviving pre-historic animals. The graceful way an alligator slithers into the water and sinks from sight as the boat skims over it is a sight to behold. And we saw something I had never seen - alligators with all four legs straight, running along the bank with only the tip of the tail dragging the ground. (Warning: Don't get too close. They can run fifteen miles per hour. Can you?...*Big grin*).

We paused for a few minutes at the "Paw Paw" Indian mound, near the river edge. Lonnie explained that it was an ancient Indian burial ground. But, again, alligators dominated the spotlight. He told us how the legendary Indians trapped and killed alligators there, for their meat and hides. That was centuries ago. But to this day, he said: "You will never see an alligator out of the water on that side of the river next to the mound. Could it be spirits, instinct or some other reason? No one seems to know.

73s es88

MARCH MINUTES
By Becky Lee KF4HTB

After the opening ceremonies and the introduction of members and welcoming of guests, Bud K4CWG reminded everyone to be sure to check into the Mosquito Net at 28.333 on Wednesday nights at 7 PM. Walt W1IIA has recently taking over this net.

After Bill W2SDB played "Happy Birthday" and several other songs, several new members were voted into the club.

Les K4SJC gave an update on the 91 repeater status. After many corrections and improvements, there is still a noise on the signal. He asked for - and got - several suggestions from the floor. The club is to consider a 2nd set of cavities. Six were tuned at no charge (a savings of several hundred dollars to the club). He has 4 cavities available for $300. We can use them until he decides whether or not to sell.

Bud said the city has finished the cabinet which holds the emergency equipment. You are welcome to go by and examine it. He also said that the recommendations are almost ready for presentation to the city of what equipment to purchase with the $8000 allocation.

Anthony KG4CEB announced that volunteers are needed for the Red Cross bicycle race. He also announced that he will have the hurricane assignment sheet ready at the April meeting. He will need volunteers to help check out the antennas at the emergency center sites.

Ozzie N4SCY gave a short, interesting program on the phonetic alphabet.

Bud talked about the two locations available for Field Day - the city well sight where field day was held last year or Hog Valley where the new North end repeater is located. After much discussion the club voted to use both sites in a coordinated effort.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2000	$4324.14
Deposits Year to Date	1301.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$5625.14**
Expenditures	1437.62
BALANCE AS AT 3/30/01	**$4187.52**

CLUB OFFICERS
President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

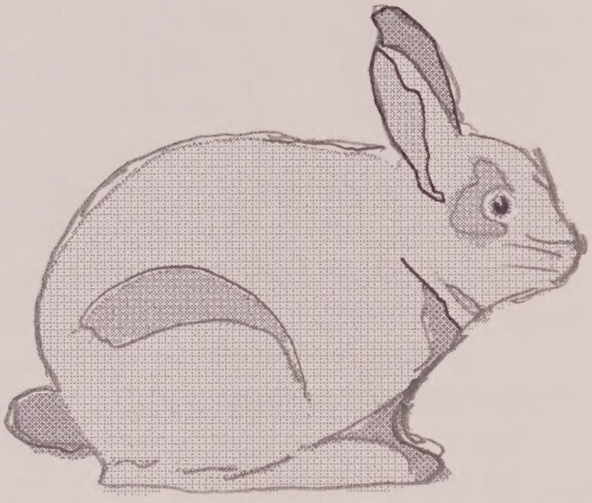
ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS
Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Anthony Hurkala, KG4CEB. 268-4240
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD MEMBERS
Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION
Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building
Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee
Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

The Adopt-A-Highway project is a go. You will be advised when the first cleanup will take place. Please plan to volunteer.

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-OO73



HAPPY EASTER!!!!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Total membership: 221 (149 regular, 53 family, 13 honorary, 6 other)
NEW MEMBERS:
W4MCH MARC HAWKINS
KG4MOM JEFFREY STOPFORD
RENEWALS:
KE4AEB JO JORDAN
KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
KE4BBJ CHARLES PROSSER
KE4BBK ORA PROSSER
N2CTQ LOU GENCORELLI
M2USO MARIE GENCORELLI (Thanks, Marie, for those wonderful cream puffs)
KG4DSG MIKE WOLFORD
AD4FG WALDEN WILSON
KG4FXR LEE ERSKINE
KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
AE4LE RALPH HALL
K0RPM RON MORGAN
KC4TE GENE MANN
K2TNT GEORGE FISCHER
KF4UN DAVE POST
KR4WB CHARLIE EATON
NE4XT BILL DIMEO
K4ATD ANGIE DIMEO
WNYKC DONALD HATFIELD
KE4JBF JOANN HATFIELD

HAMFESTS:

04/21	TAMPA
04/28-29	GAINESVILLE
07/21-22	MILTON
08/25	FORT PIERCE
09/1-2	MELBOURNE